

Farm to School

Purpose

OSU Extension (OSUE) provides statewide leadership to Ohio Farm to School (OFS). The OFS program fosters procurement of local foods and promotes activities that help students understand where food comes from and how food choices affect their health, environment, and community. Extension's OFS Advisory Group includes government agencies, industry associations, and nonprofit organizations. OSUE serves as the core partner in the National Farm to School Network and a contact for the USDA Farm to School Program.

Impact

Of the 1258 Ohio school districts/entities surveyed, 717 completed the 2015 Farm to School Census. Over a quarter (27%) of responding districts reported they participate in Farm to School, indicating need for further growth.

More than 200 educators, food service professionals and producers participated in the Farm to School five regional workshops hosted by OSU Extension. Ohio Farm to School was also instrumental in the development of Columbus City School's Ohio Meal promotion, which will provide Ohio grown and produced meals each month to more than 50,000 students.

Ohio State Colleges/Units Involved

OSU Extension program areas:

Family and Consumer Sciences,
Community Development,
4-H Youth Development, and
Agriculture and Natural
Resources.

Community Partners Involved

Ohio Department of Education
Ohio Department of Agriculture
Ohio Department of Health
Ohio Farm Bureau
Action for Healthy Kids
American Dairy Association
Organizations participating in local
and regional Food Councils
Columbus City Schools
Columbus Public Health
Mid-Ohio Regional Planning
Commission

Across Ohio, OSU Extension, farmers, educators, and public health professionals collaborate on Farm to School partnerships and events, such as "Farm to School Month", "School to Farm Road Trips" and the "Ohio Apple Crunch".



To get involved, contact:

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